

The material is presented clearly and is factually accurate. This superb text is obviously written by practical, experienced specialists, who have treated patients, striving to give them the best treatment. The many little details indicate the authors are excellent teachers, actively engaged in teaching.

The non-otolaryngologist-physician who wishes to understand modern otolaryngology better will find this an excellent bible.

This is a good book.

WALTER E. HECK, M.D.

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**ALCOHOL AND CIVILIZATION**—edited by Salvatore Pablo Lucia, M.D., Sc.D., Professor of Medicine and Preventive Medicine; Chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine; Lecturer in Medical History and Bibliography; Consulting Physician in Oncology; University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, California; McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, San Francisco, Toronto, London, 1963. 416 pages, \$3.95. (McGraw-Hill Paperbacks)

When I first received this volume for review, after many years of interest in the problem of alcohol, I must admit that I initially expected it to be "old hat." However, a quick perusal of the list of contributors assuaged some of my apprehension and subsequent careful review of its contents revealed a fascinating assemblage of data which I would strongly recommend to interested readers, whether they be "pro" or "con" on the question of alcohol use.

I further questioned the motivation behind its production when I noted, in the preface, the sponsorship of the Wine Advisory Board of the State Department of Agriculture which could have a vested interest in alcohol consumption. Erudition was presaged, however, in the Introduction by John B. de C. M. Saunders, M.D., Provost of University of California Medical Center and Dean of the School of Medicine. Indeed erudition is not lacking in the excellent papers. Chauncey Leake's expository includes a stimulating survey of much of the pre-current history of medicine. The late Franz Alexander's discussion of behavioral disorders, with perspective on alcohol use and misuse, is expectedly perceptive.

The laboratory and theoretical studies, as presented by Masserman, Greenberg and Drew, refresh one's mind on the scientific approach to problem-solving studies.

The sociologic aspects and the "set" of cultural patterns are reviewed by Lucia, Rouesche, Lolli, and Strauss, while Judge Murtagh adds some interesting legal insights.

Dr. Bruun of Finland summarizes four social truisms which have application in this field as in others:

"1. Every social system has certain needs for the maintenance of the system.

2. Every social custom is functional in the sense that it fulfills some of the needs of the social system.

3. A social need may be fulfilled by different social customs; or, to put it in another way, different social customs may serve the same social function in different social systems or at different times within a given social system. The social customs which satisfy the same social need are called functional alternatives.

4. Social customs hang together to make up a meaningful whole, so that a change in one social custom entails changes in one or more of the other customs."

These principles seem quite pertinent as we look back on our various experimental approaches to cure the evils of alcohol misuse by drastic social reforms.

Another anachronism in our approach to the question is our tendency to bypass all of the early patterns which later lead to problems and instead focus our attention and our concern on the woes of the "skid-row" character. What we teach children and the example we set them, as well as our success

in teaching them that reality is tolerable, may do much more to protect them from the improper use of alcohol than will a great deal of wailing about the terrors of alcoholism.

It was interesting to note that practically all of the essayists evaded a firm definition of the "alcoholic," except during the panel discussions when someone referred back to Marty Mann's definition that alcoholism is present "when a drinking problem is sufficient to interfere continually with any major area of one's life."

The antiquity of the use of alcohol was brought out by Mr. Rouesche with indications that it was present in Paleolithic and Neolithic cultures. Prior to "civilization" its use was essentially ritualistic and in group occasions. Civilization brought the "casual," individual drinker whose isolated excesses impinged on the mores of the community.

Dr. Lolli pointed out that his years of concern with the problem had brought him to the viewpoint of "the extreme center" and he felt that our primary concern, up and down the line is with the problem of inebriety, not primarily with alcoholism for "without inebriety there is no alcoholism." Inebriety he defines as "alcohol-induced inefficiency" and points out that we classify people as "alcoholics" when "they become inebriated inappropriately, frequently, and intensely."

Lolli goes on to point out that "in the so-called well-adjusted individual, inefficiency occurs at the proper time and with the proper intensity to meet the demands of efficiency at a later time." In applying this idea to a given case he asks two questions: "(1) Does ethyl alcohol contribute favorably or unfavorably to an individual's efficiency when he needs efficiency?" (2) Does ethyl alcohol contribute favorably or unfavorably to an individual's inefficiency when he needs inefficiency in order to foster greater efficiency to come?"

The title of the volume might well have been "Civilized Drinking." To those who do or don't aspire to this objective the book is an excellent reference source as well as pleasurable reading.

STUART C. KNOX, M.D.

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**TUMORS OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD**—Paul Michael, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Pathology, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco; Pathologist, Monterey Hospital, Monterey; Consultant Pathologist to Children's Hospital of the East Bay, Oakland, California; Consultant Pathologist to Highland-Alameda County Hospital; Booth Memorial Hospital, Oakland. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and Montreal, 1964. 461 pages, \$18.50.

This book makes some mention of nearly every type of human neoplasm, matching the detail of presentation with the importance of each tumor type in childhood. One chapter deals with lipid storage diseases under the designation of pseudotumors. The presentation is conventional, with the principal emphasis upon the classification of tumors. Histological aspects of the different tumors constitute a major part of the book, though for each variety there is usually a note concerning the gross appearance, another outlining the clinical picture, and a paragraph on prognosis and treatment. Illustrations are abundant. The more than 300 large figures deal principally with histological tumor patterns. For the most part they depict classic features of the more important tumors, and for this purpose they are well chosen. At the end of each of fifteen chapters is a generous bibliography classified as to specific tumor types. Nearly all of the cited papers are in English.

The book describes more tumors than are included in any textbook of pediatric pathology; indeed it can serve as a complete compendium of neoplasms of childhood. Of particular value are its illustrations of the histological features of many tumor types.

ALVIN J. COX, M.D.